N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Raymond Thomas et al

Application No.:

09/997,024

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

THE OF THE TANKE This reply is being filed in response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2003, having an extended period for response set to expire on January 26, 2004.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Amendments to the Abstract begin on page 7.

Remarks begin on page 8.